

# WILDLIFE TIPS AND BRIEFS

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Note to Editors: With the war-time discontinuance of the Fish and Wildlife Service's normal press-release service, this monthly clip sheet is its medium for providing the information requested by the press and outdoor writers. Items with a local slant are arranged by States, beginning on page 6, but many of these may also be of some general interest.

## PLEDGE CARD AT DINNER ANSWERS CONSERVATIONIST'S WAR PROBLEM

Facing a problem to describe the sportsman's war-time attitude toward conservation, Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Fish and Wildlife Service Director of the United States Department of the Interior, found the answer beside his plate at a "sportsman's banquet in the little town of Wellsboro, Pa.," he told the recent North American Wildlife Conference held in Toronto, Canada, by the American Wildlife Institute.

"I found at my dinner plate," said Dr. Gabrielson, "a pledge card which gave the perfect answer to this problem."

It read as follows:

"I pledge my heart and my right hand to my flag and my country.

"I further pledge myself to help carry out the wildlife conservation program, now in progress, to the end that your boy and my boy, now serving his country, may find the good hunting and fishing he has a right to expect, when he returns to civil life."

## MORE SPORTSMEN BUT FEWER DAYS OF SPORT PREDICTED DURING WAR

More sportsmen but fewer man days of hunting and fishing is the war-time expectation of the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, after a survey of America's sporting experience during the World War.

Data compiled by W. E. Crouch, Chief of the Service's Division of Game Management, show that in the 22 States from which accurate figures were obtained the number of hunters increased 1.6 percent from 1916 to 1917, 2.6 percent in the next year, and nearly 30 percent in the year following the war. Only 4 States among the 22 showed decreases, and these were slight.

Crouch's compilations show also that "on the whole there was a gradual increase of funds available to the States for wildlife conservation during the war period, and a much larger increase immediately following the war." These increases were 5 percent from 1916 to 1917, 8 percent in the following year, and 20 percent from 1918 to 1919.

Fewer man days of hunting and fishing are predicted, however, because "many will be too busy helping to win the war to spend much time with hunting guns and fishing tackle," though they will continue to need outdoor recreation. Increasing taxes and shortages of automobiles and tires are also cited as reasons for expecting a decrease in the amount of hunting.

Ammunition shortages are not considered a determining factor at present.

"The best information obtainable," says Crouch, "indicates that there are stocks of ammunition and arms in the hands of sportsmen and dealers to take care of the hunting needs at least for this year and probably for another year or longer. It should be noted, also, that except for a very limited number of items, sporting arms and ammunition have no value as equipment for organized military forces."

Crouch admits that "it will be difficult to determine accurately what will happen to wildlife as a result of the present war by drawing conclusions from the effects of the last war. This war covers more territory and influences directly the activities of more people. More materials and food are needed. Automobiles are difficult to get and tires are rationed. We will have a larger army and a larger navy than in 1917 and 1918. Also, the Nation's population is larger."

"Nevertheless," he concludes, "history tends to repeat itself, and I think we can profit much in wildlife management by using the experience gained in the last war."

#### SPORT FISHING MAINTAINS MORALE DURING WAR TIME

With the opening of the trout season at hand in many States, fishermen are planning to resume their favorite recreation even though Government priorities and the rubber shortage will limit their excursions.

"Sport fishing in England, which helps to maintain civilian morale in war time, has not been reduced materially because of the war; in numerous instances it has actually increased," stated Charles E. Jackson, Assistant Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, at the recent North American Wildlife Conference held in Toronto, Canada, by the American Wildlife Institute.

"The English people," declared Jackson, "undoubtedly have found that their nerves, shattered from endless bombing, may in some measure be restored by slipping away on a brief fishing trip. Men who are working under tension and at high speed, as they are in these times, need hours of relaxation in the great outdoors to bring them back to normalcy."

Every pound of fish taken by the sportsman relieves the food situation, Jackson also pointed out. The sport fisherman distributes his catch among his friends and neighbors, and the meats and other foods that would be purchased by the housewives for those meals are available for other food uses.

Although Government priorities have stopped the manufacture of steel rods in order to conserve steel for war use, sporting goods dealers still have large stocks on hand to take care of this season's requirements. Waders, which are made of rubber, will probably be the item hardest hit this year. Nylon lines are still plentiful, but lines of the future will undoubtedly be made of plastic.

"Fish for the Fight," which was the theme of Jackson's speech, fills two war needs, he said. Sport fishing affords relief from the nervous tension that war activities engender, and the commercial fisheries provide essential food requirements supplying important mineral elements needed for our fighting forces. He outlined plans for insuring the production of the Nation's fisheries.

#### FEDERAL OFFICIAL EMPHASIZES WILDLIFE'S IMPORTANCE IN WAR

Reminding game administrators that wildlife plays a more important role in winning or losing wars than most persons realize, Albert M. Day, Fish and Wildlife Service official of the United States Department of the Interior, recently urged that conservation programs be geared to aid war efforts to the maximum.

Clothing made of furs from wild animals aided the Russian soldiers during the German offensive in last winter's sub-zero weather, Day pointed out at the recent North American Wildlife Conference in Toronto, Canada. Rodent-borne typhus now raging over Europe, he said further, will have a profound influence upon Germany's war efforts.

Positive contributions can be made through wildlife in the form of furs, a meat supply, and in keeping the people fit, he said. At the same time, Day cautioned against permitting basic stocks of wildlife to be raided, wildlife habitat to be unnecessarily destroyed, and waters to be polluted. Liaison efforts with the War and Navy Departments and the War Production Board have produced excellent results in this respect, he reported.

Opportunities offered by the Pittman-Robertson program of Federal aid to the States in wildlife restoration can be used to resurvey trapping regulations and guarantee fullest utilization of the fur resources of this Nation without sacrificing conservation principles, he said. This is necessary since imports from China, Russia, and Australia that normally supply half the \$250,000,000 annual fur requirements are now cut off.

"Can we justify winter losses in deer and elk in many problem areas with a valuable meat supply wasting because the herds were not reduced through proper hunting seasons and bag limits to a size consistent with the available

forage?" he asked. He suggested several remedies, including taking doe deer in such areas, and pointed out that the 135,000,000 pounds of wild game normally used in American homes in hunting seasons can "release sufficient beef, mutton, pork, and poultry to feed an army of 5,000,000 men for 2 months."

The Pittman-Robertson program is available to finance studies on which to base the better use of wildlife, he said, "so the administrators need not lack for technical assistance."

"Why not," asked Day, "set our national program for wartime conservation on the course of utilizing the resource to the fullest extent consistent with good management, in providing the sport and recreation to keep our people fit, and food, fur, and leather for home consumption, so that we can send that much more to our boys fighting on foreign soil and to our allies in this struggle?"

HUNTERS PAY \$14,465,000 FOR  
CLOSE TO 8 MILLION LICENSES

Sportsmen paid \$14,465,000 for 7,925,000 hunting licenses or combination hunting-fishing or hunting-trapping licenses during the year ended June 30, 1941, according to a compilation by the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

The compilation indicates increases over the 1939-40 season when sportsmen paid out almost \$13,000,000 for more than 7,600,000 licenses.

Michigan headed the "big ten" in the list of States with 718,281 licenses, followed by Pennsylvania with 678,688; New York, 568,675; Ohio, 542,674; Indiana, 386,164; Minnesota, 354,892; Illinois, 326,019; Wisconsin, 299,534; California, 285,123; and Washington with 227,399.

Fees paid by hunters in Pennsylvania topped all other States with a total of \$1,522,840. Those in New York amounted to \$1,058,980.

Federal migratory-bird hunting stamps, commonly called duck stamps, were issued to 1,260,810 sportsmen in the 1940-41 season, an increase of 149,249 over the previous year. The Federal stamps, at \$1 each, are required of all waterfowl hunters over 16 years old, in addition to State licenses.

Although more than 2,000,000 persons were granted combination licenses authorizing trapping of fur bearers, many holding such licenses did not participate in trapping. By counting only one-tenth of the combination licenses as representing trappers, it is estimated that nearly 400,000 persons engaged in trapping, with estimated license fees of \$450,000.

The 7,912,000 sportsmen who purchased the 7,925,000 licenses during the 1940-41 season spent nearly \$192,000,000, according to estimates made by Guy W. Lane of the Service's Division of Federal Aid. This amount included arms and ammunition purchased by skeet shooters.

These estimates included, in addition to the \$15,875,000 spent for licenses and duck stamps, \$35,000,000 for hunting clothing, boots, and blankets; \$1,500,000 for boats, motors, and trailers; \$15,000,000 for meals, lodging, and laundry; \$2,000,000 for club caretakers and guide service; \$10,000,000 for club and lodge improvements and maintenance; \$2,000,000 for the purchase of hunting dogs; and \$20,000,000 for their feed, care, and training.

The retail price of sporting arms and ammunition, excluding tax, amounted to \$70,000,000, while the Federal excise tax on these articles totaled more than \$5,500,000.

#### PILCHARD MEAL IS FINE FEED FOR FARM ANIMALS

Pilchard meal is recommended for liberal use in farm-animal rations that are balanced for other essential food elements, according to William B. Lanham, Jr., and Hugo W. Wilson, technologists of the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

Authors of a recent research report on "The Effect of Heat and Moisture on the Feeding Value of Pilchard Meal," Lanham and Wilson conducted an investigation to determine the factors affecting the meal's value for farm animals. They found the meal to be a source of superior protein and some necessary minerals, but pointed out that care must be used to balance rations for other food elements.

In the United States fish meals were not recognized as a potential source of protein for farm-animal feeding until 1914-18, when high prices and scarcity of other feeds caused farmers to utilize this previously neglected material in appreciable quantity.

Some potential users, says the Fish and Wildlife Service, have refrained from feeding these products because published reports have implied that cod liver oil and fish meals have caused symptoms of toxicity when fed to animals and fowls. The new report points out, however, that "any toxicity ascribed to feeding commercially available fish meals probably was due to a deficiency state rather than a toxicosis produced by the action of one or more organic toxic compounds."

#### SERVICE SUGGESTS CANNING OF LESSER KNOWN SPECIES OF FISH

To augment food resources, the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, is assisting commercial canners of fishery products in the development of methods to increase the pack of lesser known species of fish, or those now canned infrequently or in small quantities.

The Service has issued a 6-page leaflet entitled "Canning of Alewives, Sea Herring, Mackerel, and Fish Flakes," by Norman D. Jarvis, a technologist of its Division of Fishery Industries. The leaflet describes the processes commonly used for the packing of these products and is available at the Washington offices of the Service. It is leaflet F.I. 344-a.

BOOTLEGGERS OF WATERFOWL PAY  
HEAVY FINES IN FEDERAL COURT

Fines of \$500 and \$250 were recently paid by two wild duck sellers who pleaded guilty before Federal Judge Adolph St. Sure in San Francisco, reports the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

Payer of the \$500 fine, Albert Ramazotti, of 840 Sansome St., San Francisco, according to the Service, was apprehended selling wild ducks in his "My Rendezvous" restaurant last December by Howard L. Cantrell and Harold L. Wilson, of the Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Records reveal that Ramazotti 8 years ago was fined \$25 in California court for possessing 50 wild ducks during a closed season.

Running down bootlegging reports under the direction of United States Game Management Agent Hugh M. Worcester, Cantrell and Wilson had been referred to Ramazotti by Norman Paine, of 340 Davis St., San Francisco. Later the Federal agents also caught Paine selling wild ducks, and he paid the \$250 fine for his violation of the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

"Duck bootleggers have been the object of some of our most strenuous efforts," commented W. E. Crouch, Fish and Wildlife Service head of enforcement work. "We have made general clean-ups in all the principal areas and are continuing to prosecute the violators who are still defiant. Judge St. Sure's heavy fines should be a big help."

## ALASKA

Spring Field Studies On  
Alaska Pink Salmon Begin

The U. S. F. S. Heron which left Seattle on February 16 has arrived at Little Port Walter and preparations are being made to count the pink salmon fry resulting from the eggs spawned in Sashin Creek last fall, reports S. J. Hutchinson, fishery biologist of the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, who is in charge of the spring field work.

The developing pink salmon brood in Sashin Creek has been subjected to severe injuries during the past few months. A heavy snowfall occurred in the watershed of the stream during the early part of the winter. This was followed by a period of heavy rains, and excessive floods produced by the rain and melting snow literally scoured the stream. As a result, many thousands of eggs and immature fry were washed out of the gravel and thousands of others were buried 2 to 4 feet deep by the shifting stream bed.

During the last of December and the first few days of January, the weather turned clear and cold and the stream dropped to its lowest level in the past 2 years. Every part of the exposed stream bed was frozen solid and more potential fry destroyed. Therefore, a bumper crop of fry cannot be expected this spring, although the largest number of spawners in the stream recorded to date--some 80,000--were counted through the weir last fall.

No information has been available heretofore on the quantitative influence of the environmental factors on the survival or reactions of the pink salmon. Continuous year-round observations in Sashin Creek are providing data that may be used to lay a basis for accurately predicting the abundance of pink salmon in each year's run in southeastern Alaska.

Circular Describes Birds  
And Mammals Of Territory

Descriptions and illustrations of Alaska's big game, fur animals, and birds are in "Mammals and Birds of Alaska", a circular just issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior. The new publication sets forth the Federal Government's conservation policy for maintaining the Territory's valuable wildlife asset.

"It is significant," declares Frank Dufresne, the author, "that wildlife not only provided the main incentive for the colonization of Alaska by the Russian discoverers of two centuries ago, but under the Stars and Stripes since 1867 has continued to play a leading role in the development of the Territory. This rich resource is now being managed in such way as to guarantee its preservation indefinitely."

Mr. Dufresne is executive officer of the Alaska Game Commission, which functions as the operating agency of the Fish and Wildlife Service. This commission meets annually and recommends to the Secretary of the Interior suitable regulations with respect to hunting seasons, bag limits, establishment of game and fur districts, and designation of areas as wildlife sanctuaries.

Agent Finds Illegal Pelts  
Credited To Toddling Tots

Eskimo children may be precocious, but when beaver skins supposedly were shipped from Alaska by trappers between 2 and 8 years old, the Alaska Game Commission started an investigation which cost a fur dealer 130 beaver skins with a market value estimated at \$4,500.

The story was told in a Commission report to the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

All beaver furs leaving Alaska must be registered, or tagged, by Federal officials. The 130 beaver skins were accompanied by an affidavit from thirteen "trappers" who made their mark swearing that they had trapped the beavers. A wildlife agent who went to interrogate the trappers found himself surrounded by toddling tots.

District Judge Harry E. Pratt authorized the confiscation of the 130 beaver skins to be sold by the Alaska Game Commission for the United States Treasury.

## CALIFORNIA

California Third Largest  
Big-Game State In Country

Over 535,800 big-game animals in California place the State as the third largest in the country's big-game ranks, according to an inventory conducted by the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior. Figures were recently released by the Service following a cooperative survey by Federal, State, and private agencies.

Most numerous big-game animal in California was the mule deer, with an estimated 306,100 ranking California first of 16 States with a total of 1,523,000 mule deer. California also led Oregon and Washington in the number of Columbian black-tailed deer, having 197,700 of the 323,600 reported in the three States.

Other big-game animals in California included: 17,030 black bears (ranking the State 1st in 32 reporting a total of 106,900); 12,400 prong-horned antelopes (ranking the State 6th in 16 reporting 176,600); 1,153 desert bighorn sheep (2d in 5 having 4,300); 792 elks (11th in 28 with 207,700); 400 Rocky Mountain big-horns (tied for 4th place with Utah, with 9 States having 10,100); and 200 European wild boars (ranking the State 3d in 5 having 1,390).

## FLORIDA

First Conviction Obtained  
Under 1940 Bald Eagle Act

The first conviction under the Bald Eagle Act of June 8, 1940, was obtained in Federal Court at Tampa on February 7, 1942, reports the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

The defendant, a winter visitor from Roanoke, Va., entered a plea of guilty to killing a bald eagle and paid a fine of \$10 and costs of \$79.90.

The bald eagle, symbol of American ideals of freedom, is protected from all hunters and collectors throughout the United States and its possessions, except Alaska. Persons taking, possessing, or dealing in bald eagles are liable to fines up to \$500 or imprisonment up to 6 months or both.

Project Planned For  
Fish Ponds On Farms

To provide an additional source of wartime food, representatives of the Soil Conservation Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, are cooperating to encourage the establishment of fish ponds on farms.

Plans now under consideration, according to a report submitted to Washington officials by Dr. O. Lloyd Meehan, Fish and Wildlife Service biologist at

Welaka, Fla., allow for the operation of three groups of five to six ponds each, to be operated for experimental purposes. One group is located at Clemson College, S. C., a second group at Sumter, S. C., and the third group, of six ponds, in the Old State Unit at Welaka.

The experiment will be carried out in triplicate, since all three groups of ponds will be set up in the same manner and fertilized at the same rate.

At the Federal fish-cultural station at Leetown, W. Va., arrangements have been completed for the use of two additional privately owned ponds, one on the Show property near Shepardstown, and the other on the Ferry property in Charles Town.

## LOUISIANA

### Game-Law Violators Get Jail Sentences

Two cafe operators, of Lafayette, who were indulging in a sideline of wild duck bootlegging, wound up in the U. S. District Court at Opelousas where jail sentences of 60 and 90 days, respectively, were imposed by Federal Judge Ben C. Dawkins, reports the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

Luzion Callier and Fenwick "Shank" Smith, the cafe owners, were charged with selling 10 wild ducks to a U. S. game agent for \$5.

When Joseph Johnson and Eddie Thibodeaux, farmers of Breaux Bridge, St. Martin Parish, were apprehended by Gordy Simon, State conservation officer, in a pecan orchard hunting and killing mourning doves, they took to their heels, started across a rice field, and ran into a cane field where they ditched their game. After a lengthy chase, the conservation officer overtook the men and found a sack containing 13 birds.

Both men pleaded guilty before Judge Dawkins on January 6 and received a fine of \$50 each. The seized game was donated to the St. Mary's Orphanage at Lafayette.

While patrolling Catahoula Lake in La Salle Parish, a State conservation officer apprehended Dr. Lester S. Huckaby, of Harmon, who was hunting and killing wild ducks with an automatic shot gun capable of holding more than three shells at one loading. The defendant pleaded guilty in the U. S. District Court at Alexandria and was assessed a fine of \$50 by Judge Dawkins.

## MASSACHUSETTS

### Radio Series Dramatizes New England's Work For Wildlife

New England radio listeners are hearing their wildlife conservation work dramatized in a Saturday afternoon series that began on Boston's Station WEEI with an April 18 broadcast on the woodcock.

Sponsored by the New England Museum of Natural History with the cooperation of the Boston regional office of the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, the broadcasts called "Outdoor Wonders" are produced each Saturday at 2:30 p.m. by WEEI as a public service feature.

Scheduled for broadcast on April 25 is a dramatization of the pioneering efforts of New England scientists in bird banding. Future programs deal with strange tales, both fact and fable, about wildlife; New England's rare and extinct wild animals; and the work of wildlife conservation in this region.

#### MICHIGAN

##### State Has Second Largest Big-Game Population In U.S.

Over 743,500 big-game animals in Michigan place the State second in the country, according to a recent report from the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior. Only Pennsylvania, with 777,300, has a larger number of big-game animals.

The figures are based on a nation-wide inventory conducted by the Fish and Wildlife Service in cooperation with Federal, State, and private agencies.

White-tailed deer totaled an estimated 738,300, and placed Michigan second in the 43 States having these animals. Other big-game in the State included 4,700 black bears (which ranked the State 9th in the 32 States reporting black bears); 360 elks (ranking the State 14th in 28); and 185 moose (ranking it 6th in 8 States).

#### NORTH CAROLINA

##### Sea Gulls Are Responsible For Injury To Auto Tires

In addition to other tire worries, motorists who live near Beaufort and Morehead City, N. C., are guarding their tires from jagged shells dropped on highways by herring gulls, according to the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

During cold weather, large numbers of these gulls continuously bombard the roadways and bridges in the area with hard clams, conchs, sea urchins, and several kinds of bivalves which they use for food. They release the clams from a height of about 30 to 50 feet and then dive to the pavement to retrieve the meat before it is snatched away by another gull.

The jagged broken shells of the hard clam (Venus mercenaria) may cause injury to auto tires and in certain sections of the road are so numerous as to give an almost continuous snow-like covering over the black asphalt.

According to Dr. Herbert F. Prytherch, director of the Service's fishery biological laboratory at Beaufort, "The gulls make good use of the cement roadway for opening clams and conchs but occasionally show very poor aim and drop them into the exhibit pool from which they cannot be recovered. Nearly every day it is necessary to have the roadway swept free of clam shells to prevent damage to auto tires."

Plant More Seed Oysters  
On Demonstration Farm

A total of 3,400 bushels of 1-year old seed oysters has been planted since November 15 at the North River Demonstration Oyster Farm being developed at Beaufort by the North Carolina Department of Conservation and the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

Additional plantings will be made as seed is available from the various natural beds in Core and Pamlico Sounds. Dr. H. F. Prytherch, director of the Service's fishery biological laboratory at Beaufort, is supervising studies in oyster culture on a commercial scale.

Seed for the third experimental planting of 1,200 bushels in January was obtained from the vicinity of Brant Island in Pamlico Sound and transported by schooner to the mouth of North River, thence by barge to 6 acres of selected bottom in front of the oyster farm where they were distributed at a concentration of 200 bushels per acre. The total cost, including the furnishing of seed, boat operations, and labor, amounted to 20 cents per bushel.

The difficulty of spreading 200 bushels of oysters evenly over an acre of bottom (10 to 15 oysters per square yard) has been met by towing the barge continuously over the selected area while 4 men vigorously scatter the seed oysters with shovels. Development of a suitable device for taking care of this laborious operation in shallow water areas is under consideration in view of the fact that eventually 100,000 bushels of seed oysters may be planted in the North River region.

OHIO

Sportsmen Lucky To Shoot One  
Pheasant A Day, Survey Shows

If Ohio hunters are typical of nimrods in other States, the "run-of-the-mill" sportsman is lucky to average more than a pheasant a day during the hunting season. This was indicated in a survey by the Ohio Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, reports the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

Compilation of 1,268 return cards sent in by hunters indicated that the average Ohio hunter saw  $4\frac{1}{3}$  pheasants a day and bagged one for every  $2\frac{1}{2}$  days of hunting. The hunters reported seeing pheasants 5,440 times and bagging 486 during a 14-day season.

On the opening day of the season returns showed 157 hunters had seen 1,834 pheasants and killed 157. The next day, 163 hunters saw only 1,022 birds and bagged 95. By the third day 95 hunters saw only 366 pheasants and took 48.

## PENNSYLVANIA

State Leads Country In Big-Game  
Animal Population; 775,000 Deer

Over 777,300 big-game animals were estimated to be in Pennsylvania in 1940, making Pennsylvania the leading big-game State in the country, according to a recent report of the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior. Figures were based on the annual nation-wide inventory conducted by Service naturalists with the cooperation of Federal, State, and private agencies.

Pennsylvania has 4 of the 15 groups and races covered in the inventory. Reported for the State were 775,000 white-tailed deer; 2,250 black bears; 116 buffaloes; and 15 elks. The State led all others in the number of whitetails, having 775,000 of the 3,526,200 reported for 43 States. The 2,250 black bears placed Pennsylvania 14th, with 32 States having 106,900. The 116 buffaloes reported ranked the State 8th in the 14 having a total of 4,487 bisons. Of the 28 States having a total of 207,700 elks, Pennsylvania ranked 24th with 15.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

Transplanted Coon Oysters  
Become Marketable Product

Several thousand bushels of worthless "coon", or wild, oysters transplanted in 1940 from Trenchard's Inlet to deep water in Scott Creek, have improved so much that a sample dredged last month was found satisfactory for use as raw shucked oysters, reports the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

Results of the experiments in oyster culture have led commercial packers of crab meat to interest themselves in the production of raw shucked oysters in the Beaufort region, says the Service.

## WASHINGTON

Use Empty "Stubbies"  
For Shark Net Floats

Stubby beer bottles are doing their bit in war time by serving as floats on soupfin shark nets used by West Coast fishermen engaged in the rapidly expanding shark liver oil fishery. These "stubbies", which are easily obtainable, replace Japanese glass floats and cost but one-tenth to one-twentieth as much.

Beer bottles as net floats were first tested and used by J. T. Barnaby, aquatic biologist of the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, in 1940 while preparing gear for king-crab fishing operations in the Bering Sea.

Numerous experiments were conducted by Mr. Barnaby at the Hydraulics Laboratory of the University of Washington to find the right type of float. As the tangle nets used in crab fishing are operated on the bottom in depths ranging up to 70 fathoms, a satisfactory float must withstand pressure at that depth without losing buoyancy.

Cork and cedar floats were discarded as they became waterlogged. Hollow rubber balls were also tested but they collapsed at relatively low pressure. Finally, empty "stubby" beer bottles, capped with the usual beer bottle cap, were given extensive tests. It was found that they would not break when subjected to pressures up to 200 pounds per square inch, the approximate pressure in salt water at a depth of about 75 fathoms.

Further tests by Service biologists led to the adoption of the beer-bottle float in fabricating some 3,000 fathoms of tangle net used in the crab investigation. These nets were fished for a period of about 7 months at depths sometimes as great as 80 fathoms and no breakage or leakage directly attributed to pressure occurred, nor was there evidence of any great amount of corrosion of the bottle caps.

When the soupfin shark fishery, which used submerged gill nets, underwent a rapid expansion in 1941, a number of fishermen who were familiar with the Service's experimental use of "stubbies" tried them, and today beer bottle floats are used universally in this fishery.